Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims, if entered, will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving a request for a function space at a digital processing system, the digital processing system containing an availability information for one or more function spaces at a plurality of remote properties and a set of pricing rules for one or more function spaces, the request including a plurality of criteria;

determining an availability of the requested function space based upon the availability information and one or more of the plurality of criteria; and

automatically providing a real-time price quote for the requested function space based on the set of pricing rules even when it is determined that the requested function space satisfying the one or more of the plurality of criteria is unavailable.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of remote properties are individual hotels of a hotel chain.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving an acceptance of the price quote for the requested function space from a user; and

establishing a reservation for the requested function space.

Application No.: 10/602,245

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a rejection of the price quote for the requested function space from a
        user; and

providing alternatives to one or more of the plurality of criteria in real-time.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein establishing a reservation for
the requested function space includes allocating a function space of a specified category,
the category specified by one or more category-related criteria included in the plurality of
criteria of the request.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the category-
related criteria include one or more criteria selected from the group consisting of
attendance, event type, setup styles and area.

9.   (Previously Presented) A machine-readable medium that provides
executable instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to
perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a function space, the request including a plurality of
        criteria;

determining an availability of the requested function space based upon availability
        information for one or more function spaces at a plurality of remote
        properties and one or more of the plurality of criteria; and

automatically providing a real-time price quote for the requested function space
        based on a set of pricing rules even when it is determined that the
        requested function space satisfying the one or more of the plurality of
        criteria is unavailable.

10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 9 wherein

the plurality of remote properties are individual hotels of a hotel chain.

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method performed by the processor further comprising:

>   receiving an acceptance of the price quote for the requested function space from a user; and

>   establishing a reservation for the requested function space.

14.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method performed by the processor further comprising:

>   receiving a rejection of the price quote for the requested function space from a user; and

>   providing alternatives to one or more of the plurality of criteria in real-time.

15.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 13 wherein establishing a reservation for the requested function space includes allocating a function space of a specified category, the category specified by one or more category-related criteria included in the plurality of criteria of the request.

16.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the category-related criteria include one or more criteria selected from the group consisting of attendance, event type, setup styles and area.

17.   (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a central digital processing system having a memory device, the memory device

>   having stored thereon availability information for one or more function spaces at a plurality of remote properties and a set of pricing rules for one or more function spaces, the central digital processing system configured to provide an availability determination for a function space based upon the availability information and in response to receiving a request for the function space; and, wherein said central digital processing system is further configured to automatically generate a real-time price quote for the

Application No.: 10/602,245

requested function space based on the set of pricing rules even when said availability determination by said central digital processing system indicates that the requested function space is unavailable.

18.   (Cancelled)

19.   (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the plurality of remote properties are individual hotels of a hotel chain.

20.   (Cancelled)

21.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein said central digital processing system is further configured to:

receive an acceptance of the real-time price quote for the requested function space; and

establish a reservation for the requested function space.

22.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein said central digital processing system is further configured to:

receive a rejection of the real-time price quote for the requested function space; and

provide an alternative to said request in real-time in response to said rejection.

Application No.: 10/602,245

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 wherein said central digital processing system is configured to establish a reservation for the requested function space by allocating a function space of a specified category, the category specified by one or more category-related criteria included in the request.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the category-related criteria include one or more criteria selected from the group consisting of attendance, event type, setup styles and area.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of criteria includes criteria selected from a group of criteria consisting of date, day-part, current demand, and supplementary sales.

26. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 9 wherein the plurality of criteria includes criteria selected from a group of criteria consisting of date, day-part, current demand, and supplementary sales.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein said request includes a plurality of criteria selected from a group of criteria consisting of date, day-part, current demand, and supplementary sales.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
dividing said one or more function spaces into at least one specific space and at least one category space; and
concurrently evaluating said at least one specific space and said at least one category space as part of said determining said availability of the requested function space.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising:
displaying a hierarchical relationship between said at least one category space and said at least one specific space.

Application No.: 10/602,245

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (New) The method of Claim 5, wherein establishing the reservation for the requested function space further comprises accepting the reservation when the requested function space is not available.

Application No.: 10/602,245